

the Ma'alot

January 2017 • Tevet~Shevat 5777



**CHECK THE TEMPLE WEBSITE
CALENDAR FOR EVENT LOCATIONS**



Shabbat Services / Torah Study
Mormon Center, 23 Lake Road, Irvine



Tuesday night Hebrew & High School
Back Bay Conference Center (above Irvine Lanes)
3415 Michelson, Irvine



Sunday Religious School
Tarbut V'Torah Lower School Campus
5200 Bonita Canyon Rd, Irvine

Join Us for These Events & Much More!

**Religion at the Core with guest,
Reverend Charles Dorsey**
Tuesday, January 10th at 6:00 pm

**Shabbat Service with guest,
Reverend Mark Whitlock
"African Methodist Episcopal"**
Friday, January 13th at 7:30 pm



**Women's Retreat at Bruin
Woods, Lake Arrowhead**
Fri, January 13th to Sun, January 15th



**Shabbat Service with guest,
Rabbi Miri Gold**
(sponsored by Nashim: SHM Women)
Friday, January 20th
at 7:30 pm

**Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service
"Social Justice"**
Friday, January 27th at 7:30 pm

A L I F E T I M E O F B E L O N G I N G

the Ma'alot

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FOUNDING RABBI

SHABBAT SERVICES ~ JANUARY 2017

All Shabbat Services will be held at the Mormon Center, 23 Lake Drive, Irvine

Friday, January 6th

- 7 pm: Family Shabbat Service with Youth Band and 2nd & 5th Grade Participation

Friday, January 27th

- 7:30 pm: Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service, "Social Justice"

Friday, January 13th

- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service with Adult Choir and guest, Reverend Mark Whitlock, "African Methodist Episcopal"

Friday, January 20th

- 6:30 pm: Tot Shabbat Service
- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service with Temple Musicians and guest, Rabbi Miri Gold sponsored by NaSHiM



“IS” AND “OUGHT”

KOL NIDRE SERVICE 5777 ~ DELIVERED OCTOBER 11, 2016



Rabbi Richard Steinberg
The Rona Perley Memorial
Senior Rabbinic Chair

I remember my first Philosophy class in college, Philosophy 101. The professor stood at the board and wrote two words. “Is” and “Ought” O-U-G-H-T. He then went on to explain that the whole semester would be spent trying to define these two words. He had me at “is.”

Scottish philosopher and historian David Hume, of the 18th Century, explained the Is/Ought problem stating that just because something is a certain way, doesn’t mean that it ought to be that way; nor that the fact that it is that way should influence what it ought to be. Confused yet?

Here is what it means for us and why I am raising it tonight. Is is just a statement of fact of where anyone is at a particular moment in their lives. What ought to be is a statement of values and aspirations. Now perhaps, many of us are living up to our highest values of what we ought to be—but maybe, just maybe, some of us are stuck in our is.

Friends, Yom Kippur comes every year to remind us not to be stuck in what is, but rather to self-improve so as to reach a higher level of living. In fact, Yom Kippur gives us great tools to move from is to ought. Repentance, forgiveness, charity, prayer, community, family and friends are the tangibles to help us reach the intangible of our spiritual striving for goodness.

In fact our Hebrew Bible is replete with this dialectic between Is and Ought. Our biblical characters are flawed, often stuck in their ways and the Bible lays out a value system so compelling that it is the bestselling book of all time in human history. As I often say, “I don’t know if the Bible is true or not, but there are a great many eternal truths in the Bible. My job is to find out what those truths are and apply them to my life.” By the way, that is the essence of Torah study every week—if anyone is interested.

Tonight I would like to suggest three “oughts,” three higher values we might strive for and create a movement for ourselves from what is, to what not only ought to be, but can be. Are you ready for the journey?

Here they are: Love, sacrifice and passion. These three words alone mean nothing, but in the context of our spiritual development they mean everything.

So let’s begin with love.

Here I am not talking about romantic love, although that is a subset of the general principle of love. Dr. Alan Morinis, our Mussar teacher, in a lecture to our graduating Mussar students last May taught that if it doesn’t come from love, it isn’t religion. His point was simply that if a religion acts in such a way to exclude people, be violent, hurt or demean others it isn’t a religion. If such a group exists, it is a group, but it isn’t a religious group. Love ought to be at the center of what we call religion. After he spoke, I perseverated on this idea for some time as I looked at us as individuals and thought “what is at our core?” Some of us are quick to anger. Some of us are naturally shy and so we hold back that which we feel. Some of us are over the top with everything. Tonight, on this holiest of holy days, let’s look at the core of our beings and see what sits at the center. If we want to move from what is our life to what could be our life—a good place to start would be to center that life on love.

Imagine if everything we did came from a place of love. Let’s take the difficult situations first. The parent who disciplines his child has a responsibility to do so—but think about the parent who disciplines from love as opposed to reactive anger? Not only does the parent feel better about discipline, my guess is the child responds better to it. Think about the police officer who must go about his duties enforcing the law—the officer who has a love of

community and country acts different than the one who is motivated by power and aggression. Now, think about our own interpersonal relationships—even the hardest conversations that come from love are often received in love, but those conversations, that are really arguments, and rants, get us no where. And to be sure, even forgiveness that is requested in love and given in love can be transformative.

Our universe simply is in need of more love. However, as I said on Rosh Hashanah and I will say tomorrow, I cannot worry about the entire world this year. I want to just speak to me and you. My hope is that as we change, our world will change...let’s just work on ourselves this go’round. So yes, without doubt our universe needs more love. But it is only going to come if we provide it.

There is a beautiful *midrash*, Jewish legend, that tells even God changed on the holy days from the is state to the ought state. The *midrash* tells us that God sits on the Throne of Judgement, *kiseh din* during the Holy Days and gives each person his or her decree. But upon hearing the call of the shofar, God gets off of the Throne of Judgement and moves to the Throne of Mercy, *kiseh rachamim*. And instead of judging, God’s compassion and love come through, forgiving iniquity and demonstrating an ethos beyond what even God knew.

Continued on page 12



Cantor Arie Shikler

The Hollander Family Cantorial Chair

Out with the old, in with the new. What does it mean? How do you deal with it? What do you do in the meantime before the new gets in? All these questions and more are part of my life and my fellow team mates here at SHM as we packed our building to get ready for the new and renovated one. Before construction begins we had to pack our individual areas with items that are going to move with us to a temporary office, items that will be needed later destined to storage and getting rid of what's not needed.

That last part is very hard for me to do I admit. Let's start with Friday Night Live folders with music booklets of lyrics and penciled notes. Yes, we scanned all of them and they'll be available for me on the computer's public drive. I don't know about you but I like to hold the paper and leaf through the folder. It brings back memories of amazing moments and spiritual highs. It was very hard to see the folders go. They were filling most of the shelves behind me for the last sixteen years, showing their spines and titles in alphabetical order as a unified wall of accomplishments and hard work. It was a big piece of my heart and soul and a painful experience but they had to go.

Then there's literally thousands of letters from you, the congregants, with comments of how you enjoyed the music and the preaching.

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Many from people who since either passed away or moved away. Cards, hundreds and hundreds of cards; with holiday wishes or birthday ones. Pamphlets of ceremonies like Confirmations, Holocaust memorials and the Sanctuary Dedication, all had to go.

I read them all before committing them to the recycle bin and they brought back so many good memories.

What can be more precious than a small card from a Bar or Bat Mitzvah student who wrote to me after their ceremony, "Cantor thank you for all your help, I couldn't do it without you. And thanks for the harmonica. I play it every day".

In the music studio upstairs I had every poster of the annual cantor's concert. We photographed all of them and recycled the papers. Again, physical memories lost but not gone. I will forever have the digital files of all the scans and of course the music is stored in MP3 form.

I walk into the empty sanctuary and it seems so bare. The warm wood panels remember the haunting melodies of the Kol Nidrei and U'netaneh Tokef and the joyous sounds of *Hava Nagila* and *Romenyeh Romenyeh*, the sad one of *Anatevka* and the uplifting *Fiddler's Tradition* and *If I Was A Rich Man*. The stained glass windows are packed in wooden crates and the piano is gone.

I am reminded of Chanukah which as of this writing is almost here. The Maccabees came into the Temple in Jerusalem in the year 168 BCE, and cleaned it up, renovated and dedicated it. Two thousand one hundred and eighty four years later we are fortunate to do it again. Out with the old and in with the new? Well, like the Torah that is old but reveals new understandings every time you read it, some things never change.

Our real warmth is not going to come from new wood panels. It is already here emanating from the clergy and staff and you, the congregation. We are going to be like old wine in a new bottle and so much more. As I am standing in the atrium that is filled with furniture and packed boxes I can see a future Café where friends hang out. The Social Hall doors are open in the late afternoon as chairs and tables are moved into the two storage trailers in the parking lot. The sun is painting the sky pastel peach and pink and the last rays kiss the tree tops on the golf course. I imagine a Friday night service there in our new sanctuary as we read *Maariv Aravim*, a prayer thanking God for bringing on the evening.

And on warm summer nights the glass doors will open to the open air and we can have services outdoors. I see our youth sitting on the stairs outside like an open air theatre singing and playing guitars. The new campus will provide so many opportunities for future activities. The new Bimah will be large enough for a full choir and piano and the Friday Night Live drummer won't have to be tucked behind the partition.

The old will be renewed and the new will be a bonus. New music room with sound proof recording area and a state of the art sound throughout. I can't wait! With the glow of the Festival of Lights still in our minds, the future looks bright with possibilities. The in between time of wandering to different locations for all of our activities is not easy but well worth the outcome.

This is a gift to our families of now and their children and, God willing, grandchildren to come.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Social Justice

Friday, January 27th

at 7:30 pm

(at Mormon Center, 23 Lake Drive, Irvine)

Music is a powerful tool for evoking the inner space within which trans-formative prayer can happen. The ancients knew this, and music was a big part of the ancient temple ritual.

This service features congregational melodies and eclectic, contemporary music which compliment the creative service booklet compiled by Cantor Shikler, specifically for this service.

Mazel Tov!

Lori Schwartz was recently installed as President of JFFS. Laurie had previously served as Vice-Chair; Planning and Funding. Please join Rabbi Steinberg and the SHM community in congratulating Lori.



The JFFS Orange County board and staff bring an impressive array of complimenting experience and expertise to the table, covering such key areas as social service delivery, campaign development, marketing/communications, finance, data, planning, outreach and more. Together, everyone works hard year round to meet the needs of our community, today and for the future.

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Deborah Ahdoot

Graduate of Boston University
specialization in tax law.

- | | |
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COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

PURIM @



SUNDAY,
MARCH

12TH



SHPIEL @ 9:00^{AM}
BACK BAY CONFERENCE CENTER

FOLLOWED BY PARADE
OF COSTUMES TO BOOMERS

CARNIVAL

10^{AM} — 12^{PM}

GUESTS HAVE UNLIMITED USE OF

GO KARTS

FLAME THROWER

KING ARTHUR'S CARNIVAL

LASER TAG

MINIATURE GOLF

SIDEWINDER

ROCK WALL

BATTING CAGES

BLUE FACED VIDEO GAMES

BUMPER BOATS

Prize and redemption games are not included with this event. Guests may purchase play points for prize and redemption games at a special group rate.

HAPPY NEW YEAR...AGAIN!

BY RACHEL HARMAN

Another January, another New Year is upon us. It is amazing that I am still so surprised at how quickly the time seems to fly by. The year is so busy with kids, work, temple life, that before I blink it is time for another New Year. Rosh Hashanah was, in fact, just 3 months ago, perhaps that's why this second New Year seems to have crept up so soon.

We are privileged to live in a country where we can freely practice our religious freedoms and celebrate our Jewish New Year and shortly thereafter celebrate the secular New Year. It gives us a chance to start fresh, take inventory and set new goals for ourselves and our families... twice. We can revisit reflections from Rosh Hashanah, and before the year gets away from us, take stock of how we are doing.

With this in mind, I tried to look back and think about the similarities and differences of our two New Year's celebrations and traditions. What distinguishes our celebration of Rosh Hashanah? What makes our holy day different from the secular New Year holiday?

Rosh Hashanah is indeed a Holy Day—a day for prayer, Jewish community, reflection. It is a time that we make a very conscious and deliberate effort to observe. For most of us, this means taking time off of school and work, attending services at our synagogue, creating family or community dinners. For me, it is a time to BE Jewish—a time to reflect and be grateful for the blessings of the previous year. A time to set goals for the upcoming year. The goals I make for the year tend to be more about "being" rather than "doing". I think about how hard I work to live as a mensch and model this behavior for my children. I ask myself if I am making meaning in my life, am

I making and cherishing memories with my friends and family. I examine whether I am doing my part to help my community and my world (mitzvot). I think about all these ways of "being" and renew my commitment to "be" the best person I can be.

Making New Year's resolutions has never been my favorite past time. For me, these resolutions are about "doing": get organized, exercise more, eat healthier, work harder, get more rest—an endless list of things to "do". Likely they will be the list of things that did not get "done". This year, I think I will take the second New Year and use it as a time to regroup, reflect and check in with my more personal, spiritual goals of Rosh Hashanah. I am grateful for this moment to reflect, make sure I am on track and adjust my course if needed. It is a privilege of living in both a Jewish world and secular world.

As SHM co-presidents, Beth and I take Rosh Hashanah as a time to update you all on the state of our synagogue—what have we done as a community, what are we looking forward to this coming year, what goals do we have for our synagogue community. As we are celebrating the secular New Year, we are happy with the progress we are making.

Our demolition is approved and expected to be underway as this article is published, our belongings are packed and in storage, the staff has moved out of the building to our temporary offices at 4000 MacArthur Blvd., Newport Beach, our services are warmly taking place at the Mormon Center on Lake Street and our religious school is thriving at Tarbut v' Torah. Just as we planned, despite the upheaval of a building project, we are



Beth Carroll & Rachel Harman
Temple Co-Presidents

thriving, growing and learning together. This year's program theme, "Celebrating Faith" is providing us with thoughtful, engaging speakers and perspectives.

Join us as we wander through Orange County as a community celebrating holidays, life cycle events and Shabbat together!

All the best for a happy 2017 New Year!

Rabbi Bernie King Mitzvah Projects ~ B'nai Mitzvah Students



Gabriella Beard

January 7, 2017

Daughter of Kenny & Dede Beard

I attend: Tarbut V'Torah

I enjoy: Arts, tennis, dance, snow skiing, all water sports, fashion, and hanging out with friends and family

Mitzvah Project: Volunteered at Friendship Circle



Leah McKenzie

January 14, 2017

Daughter of Juliette & Jim McKenzie

I attend: Orchard Hills School

I enjoy: Singing, soccer, water polo, and spending time with family

Mitzvah Project: Walked dogs at Priceless Pet rescue for the dogs looking for their forever homes



Ryan Abraham

January 14, 2017

Son of Gary & Natasha Abraham

I attend: Sierra Vista Middle School

I enjoy: Drawing, all sports, pizza, and video games

Mitzvah Project: Bone Marrow Drive



Eli Brand

January 21, 2017

Daughter of Leilah Madorsky and Ron Brand

I attend: Orange County School of the Arts

I enjoy: Basketball, rock climbing, rafting, playing the saxophone, spending time with family

Mitzvah Project: Helped disabled and under privileged children



Gabriella Wolfe

January 28, 2017

Daughter of Susanna & Stuart Wolfe

I attend: Tarbut V'Torah

I enjoy: Acting, dancing, and hanging with my friends

Mitzvah Project: Had a bake sale and walked with Lymphoma Walk to raise money donated to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in memory of my best friend, Emily who died at 17

YOUTH GROUPS @ SHM

(Register online at shmtemple.org/eventsrsvp or follow the link in your email notice. See you there!)

SHMoFTY 9th–12th Grade Youth Group Mystery Bus Ride!

Saturday, January 7th at 6:00 pm

Watch your email for more details coming soon!

SHMoFTY goes to NFTY SoCal Winter Kallah Fri, January 13th to Sun, January 16th

Join SHMoFTY at a 4 day long retreat with Jewish teenagers from all over Southern California.

JiFTY 6th–8th Grade Youth Group JiFTY Jumps!

Saturday, January 28th at 6:00 pm

JiFTY is headed to Rockin' Jump for an evening full of trampoline fun! \$25 per person, socks and snacks included.

MiTY 6th–8th Grade Youth Group MiTY Bowling!

Sunday, January 29th at 1:00 pm

MiTY is going to hit the lanes for an afternoon of bowling! Join us from 1–3 pm for bowling, lunch and a chance to hang out with your friends!

BMC Bowling!

Wednesday, January 4th at 5:00 pm

Join us for the next round of BMC Bowling! B'nai Mitzvah Chavurah is our chance for 7th graders to hang out and socialize. We'll provide the bowling and snacks, see you there!

If you have any questions about these events or about any youth program please contact Jordan at jordan@shmtemple.org



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Heather Rosenthal
Religious School Principal
The Alpert-Waldman Family
Education Chair

The holiday season is now behind us and this is a time to catch our breath and look back at all we should be thankful for! During December, our Religious School students worked on showing their generosity through different programs. Our Pre-K, Kinder and 1st graders learned as families together at their Family Experience at TVT. Our students learned about and experienced *Nedivut* or generosity. These



families made sack lunches that benefitted the women's shelter, WISEplace, and they made gift bags for JFFS families through their Adopt a Family program. Thank you to David Lewis, who led this day of learning for our students!

Continuing in December, *Nedivut* or generosity was very present with our entire school as each grade level sponsored one of eight families through the Jessica Herron Caring and Sharing Program. This program helps the neediest families in Orange County with

clothing, food items, basic essentials and gifts for the holidays. I am thankful for all the families that participated in bringing unwrapped presents for a family member and showing their generosity. All of the gifts donated were taken and wrapped by our families at our All School Chanukah Celebration at Mason Regional Park on December 18th. This event was themed "Extreme Makeover: SHM Temple Edition" and families helped in the telling of the story of Chanukah and the soon-to-be rededication of our own temple. After this awesome event, which was organized by Rachel Bickford, our Family Coordinator, I got to personally drop off all the wrapped gifts to the families and the sheer happiness and gratitude that these families felt that day was truly overwhelming!

As we reflect on the year we had, the one thing that is apparent, more than anything at our school, is that our students are loved by their families and friends and they are more than willing to share that love with our community. And this is what *nedivut* or generosity is all about!

Don't forget to check out our "SHM- The Place to Be" Community page and our "SHM Religious School" Facebook page!



RELIGION AT THE CORE

• • • • •
WITH SPECIAL GUEST,

REVEREND CHARLES DORSEY

Executive Director of COR Community Development

Tuesday, January 10th at 6:00 pm

Back Bay Conference Center, Irvine

Our high school students will engage in a Q & A session with Reverend Dorsey from the COR AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church in Irvine. He is the Executive Director of Community Development and is excited to speak with our teens. Parents and all members are invited to join us!



Welcome New Members

Brian & Alicia Keysor
Scott & Karen Sherman

Condolences to...

Michelle Shatzen on the death of her grandmother, Florence Richards

Shari Raskin on the death of her cousin, Michael Stokols

Anthony Osborn on the death of his father, Anthony Osborn, Sr.

Daniel Wexler on the death of his father, Dr. Harry Wexler

Joan Weiss on the death of her great-granddaughter, Isabella Valentini Cooley

ADULT LEARNING

Torah Study

with Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi Lewis
Saturdays at 8:30 am
(at the Mormon Center, 23 Lake Rd)

Meets: 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28

Each week our Torah portion invites us to search our souls for meaning, memories, mitzvah, and lessons on how to be a mentsch. We read the Torah over and over again each year as we gain more insight into its depth. Study the weekly Torah portion with the Rabbis and gain inspiration that will nourish your soul.

Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness for Beginners

Facilitated by Karen Busch

Wednesdays at 7:15 pm

Jan. 4th & 18th

Celebrating Faith at SHM

Shabbat Service with guest, Reverend Mark Whitlock "African Methodist Episcopal"

Friday, January 13th at 7:30 pm

Reverend Whitlock has served as pastor of Christ Our Redeemer A.M.E. Church in Orange County since August of 1998. In addition, Rev. Whitlock is the Director of Community Initiatives at University of Southern California, Center for Religion and Civic Culture. Before his full-time call to the ministry, Rev. Whitlock served as the founder and executive director of FAME Renaissance, the economic development arm of First A.M.E. Church, Los Angeles.



Shabbat Service sponsored by NaSHiM with guest, Rabbi Miri Gold "Reform Judaism in Israel"

Friday, January 20th at 7:30 pm

In March, 1999, Miri Gold became the third Reform woman rabbi to be ordained in Israel through Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem campus. Rabbi Gold is the first non-Orthodox rabbi to be recognized by the State of Israel. Miri petitioned the Israel Supreme Court in 2005, demanding recognition as the rabbi of Kibbutz Gezer. In 2012, the Israel Attorney General decided that rabbis of non-Orthodox rural communities are entitled to salaries, setting a historic precedent towards achieving religious pluralism in Israel.



A LIFETIME OF BELONGING



God, Faith and Jewish Identity
Sundays at 9:30 am at TVT Lower Campus

Examining the blessings of religion is not purely an intellectual exercise. Join with rabbis Steinberg and Lewis for any or all of these sessions which will raise profoundly religious questions in a manner that challenges the mind and the spirit with the context of Jewish thought.

January 22nd: "God: Person or Power?"

March 5th: "God and Suffering"

April 2nd: "Atheism and Judaism"



JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 No Religious School - Winter Break	2 Office Closed	3 (Back Bay Conference Center above the Irvine Lanes) 4:15 pm - Hebrew School	4 5 pm - BMC Bowling! 6:45 pm - Adult Choir 7:15 pm - Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness for Beginners at Mimi's Cafe in Irvine	5 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians (4490 Von Karman, Newport Beach) 6 pm - Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 pm - Board of Trustees Meeting	6 (Friday night services are now at 23 Lake Road, Irvine) 7 pm - Family Shabbat Service with Youth Band and 2nd & 5th Grade	7 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Gabriella Beard 6 pm - SHMoFTY: Mystery Bus Ride!
8 (Religious School is at TVT Lower Campus) 8 am - Early Hebrew Chavurah 9:15 am - Judaica Classes with Camp Fair 9:30 am - Sunday Speaker Series: Rabbi Eliezie, "Chabad" 11:30 am - Youth Band	9	10 (Back Bay Conference Center above the Irvine Lanes) 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 5 pm - 8th-10th Grade 6:30 pm - 11 & 12th Grade 7:30 pm - SHMoFTY Board Meeting 7:30 pm - Men's Spirituality Group	11 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	12 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians	13 (Friday night services are now at 23 Lake Road, Irvine) 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service with Adult Choir and guest, Reverend Mark Whitlock, "African Methodist Episcopal" Women's Retreat at Lake Arrowhead	14 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bat Mitzvah of Leah McKenzie 11:15 am - Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Abraham Women's Retreat at Lake Arrowhead
15 No Religious School Women's Retreat at Lake Arrowhead	16 MLK, Jr. Day Office Closed	17 (Back Bay Conference Center above the Irvine Lanes) 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 6:30 pm - Board of Education Meeting 6:30 pm - B'nai Mitzvah Workshop	18 7:15 pm - Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness for Beginners at Mimi's Cafe in Irvine	19 6 pm - Brotherhood: Dinner & K1 Racing 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians	20 (Friday night services are now at 23 Lake Road, Irvine) 6:30 pm - Tot Shabbat Service 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service with Temple Musicians and guest, Rabbi Miri Gold	21 8:30 am - Torah Study with Community Scholar, David Ruderman 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Eli Brand
22 (Religious School is at TVT Lower Campus) 8 am - Early Hebrew Chavurah 9:15 am - Judaica Classes 9:30 am - God, Faith & Jewish Identity 11:30 am - Youth Band	23	24 (Back Bay Conference Center above the Irvine Lanes) 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 5 pm - 8th & 9th Grade	25 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	26	27 (Friday night services are now at 23 Lake Road, Irvine) 7:30 pm - Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service, "Social Justice" Confirmation Retreat in Washington DC	28 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bat Mitzvah of Gabriella Wolfe 6 pm - JiFTY Jumps! Confirmation Retreat in Washington DC
29 (Religious School is at TVT Lower Campus) 8 am - Early Hebrew Chavurah 9:15 am - Judaica Classes 9:30 am - Sunday Speaker Series: Rabbi Fischer, "Modern Orthodox" 11:30 am - Youth Band 1 pm - MiTY: Bowling! Confirmation Retreat in Washington DC	30 Confirmation Retreat in Washington DC	31 (Back Bay Conference Center above the Irvine Lanes) 4:15 pm - Hebrew School				

Rabbi Steinberg article from page 3

What is it going to take to get us off of our proverbial thrones of what is and move us to what could be? The Hebrew word *rachamim*, mercy or grace, comes from the Hebrew root—*rechem*, meaning “womb.” Is there a greater kind of love than between a mother and her unborn child... together they share nourishment in one body. Their symbiotic relationship is to a depth no man could ever understand and no woman can articulate fully—love just exists in its very best state. We need more of it. Simply put—if we want to move from the *is* of our life to the *ought*—let’s just be more loving towards each other. There is already too much pain in the world. Let’s add our love and maybe, just maybe the world will be more loving.

Sacrifice—This word comes from the Latin—*sacra-ficio*—to make something holy. The *is* position of many people in America is me, me, me... and only then after serving one’s own needs will they consider other people’s needs, wants or desires. We rarely, if ever, sacrifice our needs for another these days. I will give you a silly example. I don’t think a guest who is invited to a Bar Mitzvah celebration ought to be allowed to go to the party, if he or she has not attended the service. One is celebrating something they did not even have the time to sacrifice themselves to witness. I don’t quite get it. And it ain’t much of a sacrifice to come pray for an hour and twenty minutes to watch a young person achieve a milestone.

This leads me to me to a theory I have about life in general and this is: showing up is than half the battle. If you have ever gone to a funeral, especially when your presence was not expected, the mourner will always remember that you were there, that you sacrificed whatever plans you had to be there for them. Think about it—the hospital visit, the unexpected card... when people sense that one has sacrificed something for them, they are touched deeply and you have made an *is* moment into an *ought* moment. The things I am mentioning are so slight they might not even qualify as sacrifices—think about the real sacrifices... organ donations... when a stranger gives his body to another, that is making holiness. When a soldier gives her life to defend a nation—that is sacrifice. When

the good samaritan stops to help the stranger, when he has no obligation what so ever to do so—sacrifice... that is what we ought to do... those are our highest values and aspirations. More sacrifice makes us better and allows us to live at a higher space. Tzedakah can be put in this realm. No one is obligated to give but when people do, it is immensely appreciated... and those who sacrifice to give, who stretch beyond their comfort level, is truly an amazement.

Chuck Gallozzi, a modern day ethicist, wrote an article entitled: “Willingness to sacrifice is a sign of a strong character and is to be encouraged.” (<http://www.personal-development.com/chuck/sacrifice.htm>)

If we want to move from the facts of our daily life to the highest values that we have the potential to embody, we need to love more and sacrifice more.

Have you noticed that many of us are so busy with our lives that some have lost the passion for living? We are so busy running here and there, trying to complete this task and finish that assignment and reach this goal, that we feel spread thin, there is nothing we are all that passionate about except getting to the end of the day. Believe me—this is a sermon to myself as well as to you—we get so caught up in the details of life, we sometimes forget the purpose behind it all. This year let us find a cause, an interest, a hobby, or a group to whom to devote ourselves and we will find a shift in our view of life itself. When we have passion for something, we are transformed as we are transforming whatever it is we are passionate of. All of our Bar/Bar Mitzvah students are required to do a mitzvah project—to sacrifice themselves a bit to give to others. What I love to see is when such a project becomes their passion and they dedicate themselves to the project even when it is no longer a requirement. Passion is an essential for elevated living.

Speaking of elevated living, there’s a famous story of a rabbi watching a tightrope walker performing his acrobatic act between two very tall buildings. The rabbi watched him from his place on the street for a long time, over an hour, until some passersby asked the rabbi why he was staring at this acrobat, rather than doing something ‘important’.

The rabbi looked at him and said, “I’m absolutely amazed by this man. How does he do it? He is so passionate about this walk.” So the rabbi waited for the acrobat to come down from his high wire, approached him and said, “I’ve been watching you for an hour. It’s amazing that anyone would devote themselves to something like this. What’s your secret: how do you not fall?”

The tightrope walker thought for a moment and said: “There is no trick to this except to be totally dedicated to it. If I think about the money I’m earning, I’ll lose my concentration, and fall. I can only look ahead and move one step at a time toward my goal. It is in that way that I survive. If I think about the fact that I have to go home and make dinner, I will fall. And it is not that I am not going to make dinner tonight, Rabbi, but when I am on the rope I am completely dedicated to it, as my life depends on it.”

The Rabbi learned in that moment that passion can be transformative. Having passion gives us a renewed sense of purpose as well. Having something that we are so committed to doing makes a difference in a variety of ways. Such passion changes our inner essence and people can benefit from our hard work. The depth of focus one has on any given project is critical to finding one’s way—from just being, to truly living.

A life well lived is not one in which we go from *is* to *is*, but rather from *is* to *ought*—from being to passion, for solitude to love, from self-centeredness to sacrifice.

Friends, now is the time to change. The gates are closing for this year and our chance is now. Let’s find a way to give more love. Let’s move from us being the center of the world and rather sacrifice a little to give to another. Let’s discover a passion and focus on it and find meaning. Let Yom Kippur move us from who we are to who we want to be—from what is, to what ought to be, our best selves, our highest aspirations and our inner best.

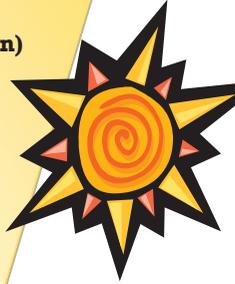
Jewish Camp Fair

Sunday, January 8th

During Religious School

(at TVT Lower Campus, 5200 Bonita Canyon)

Want to send your kids to Jewish Overnight Camp this summer?



The following Camps will be represented:

- Wilshire Blvd. Temple Camps (Hess Kramer & Hilltop)
- URJ Camps Newman & Six Points Academy
- Camp JCA Shalom
- And more!



Jewish camp helps shape children's Jewish identity, but also provides them with Jewish friends that will last a lifetime!



IRVINE HEBREW DAY SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE TOUR

Thursday, January 19th at 11:00am

RSVP: info@irvinehebrewday.org

ENROLLING

Kindergarten-4th grade

- Inquiry-Based Experiential Learning
- Meaningful & In-Depth Jewish Learning
- Highest Standards for Academic Achievement
- "Positive Discipline" Philosophy



Experience Innovative Education

(949) 478-6818

www.irvinehebrewday.org

Sunday Speaker Series

all at TVT Lower Campus, 5200 Bonita Canyon Rd



Rabbi David Eliezrie, "Chabad"

Sunday, January 8th at 9:30 am

Chabad is today one of the world's best known Hasidic movements and is well known for its outreach. It is the largest Hasidic group

and Jewish religious organization in the world. Join us as Rabbi Eliezrie shares his 25+ years as rabbi and founder of Congregation Beth Meir



Rabbi Dov Fischer, "Modern Orthodox"

Sunday, January 29th at 9:30 am

Rabbi Dov Fischer, Rav of Young Israel of Orange County, became a congregational Rabbi in Irvine in August 2005, when he assumed the role at Beth Jacob Congregation. Rabbi Fischer later established Young Israel of Orange County, OC's first new Orthodox Jewish congregation in more than twenty years.

As a quintessentially "Modern Orthodox" centrist rabbi he creates a unique home for educated and critical-thinking Contemporary Jews.



Rabbi Steinberg, "Reform Judaism"

Sunday, February 12th at 9:30 am

Mark your calendar and come study with Rabbi Steinberg the history and birth of Reform Judaism. As an

assistant and associate rabbi at The Issac M. Wise temple, the birth place of American Reform Judaism, he is not only an expert in the subject, he lived, walked and talked from the pulpit from which it was founded.

Building Program Update:

1. Demolition: We have our demolition permit from the city and are making the final plans on the start to removing structural and landscaping items that will no longer be part of our new facility. Actual demo is expected to begin the first of January—as soon as we have final contracts with the General Contractor.
2. Plans: All plans were submitted to the city and received back with minimal notes at the end of November. The comments were responded to and submitted to the city for final review. This allowed us to issue the Bid Set Drawings that drive the bidding process for the subs and material vendors. A ton of activity around this occurred at the end of December and will be reported on in the next Ma'alot.
3. Finance: The Finance Committee has been very busy collecting financial data to support our loan application process. As was discussed all along, we will need to have a loan since the pledges are paid over a 1-5 year period, but the construction costs will be incurred over the next 9-10 months.
4. Campaign: The campaign has received over \$9.4m in pledges. There's no time like the present to be a part of this historical transformation of SHM! If you wish to discuss donation opportunities please call the Temple Office and we'll make sure someone gets in touch with you right away! You can also donate online at www.shmtemple.org/donate.html
5. Shabbat Services: We have been warmly hosted by volunteer families at the Mormon Center on Friday nights and many Saturday mornings since Yom Kippur. Each week a family welcomes us to the facility and stays with us throughout the services and oneg. We do our best to help out by putting away the folding chairs at the end of services and being thoughtful in the amount of time we spend at our oneg. We are making every effort to limit the burden on our hosts in these small ways. So if you feel a little rushed, please know it's with the best of intentions to be good guests in our temporary worship space.

Also, if you find that the front door has been inadvertently locked when you arrive, don't leave!! Please ask our security guard for assistance in gaining access.



Living Room Learning

Thursday, February 9th

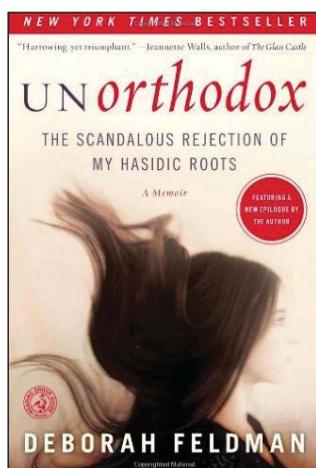
10:00 am to 11:30 am

Home of Aviva Forster

Living Room Learning is a program designed for women that will cover issues, concerns, and topics in a safe, intimate, and warm environment.

There is no fee for this event, however reservations are required.
RSVP to the Temple office at 949-857-2226 or online at www.shmtemple.org.

NaSHiM: SHM Women presents



**Girls Night with
Book Discussion**
Wed., February 1st, 6:30 pm
at the home of Katherine Liner

Buy your book now:
Unorthodox
by Deborah Feldman

The instant New York Times bestselling memoir of a young Jewish woman's escape from a religious sect, in the tradition of Ayaan Hirsi Ali's *Infidel* and Carolyn Jessop's *Escape*, featuring a new epilogue by the author.

As a member of the strictly religious Satmar sect of Hasidic Judaism, Deborah Feldman grew up under a code of relentlessly enforced customs governing everything from what she could wear and to whom she could speak to what she was allowed to read. It was stolen moments spent with the empowered literary characters of Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott that helped her to imagine an alternative way of life. Trapped as a teenager in a sexually and emotionally dysfunctional marriage to a man she barely knew, the tension between Deborah's desires and her responsibilities as a good Satmar girl grew more explosive until she gave birth at nineteen and realized that, for the sake of herself and her son, she had to escape.

No fee for the event, however an RSVP is appreciated so that we can coordinate an hors d'oeuvres and dessert potluck.
Register online at www.shmtemple.org or call the office at 949-857-2226

Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot

Doris and Milton Chasin Teen Israel Scholarship

\$2500 Scholarship

(Two Scholarships Available)

Students Incoming 10th, 11th or 12th Grades

May Apply for the Scholarship!

Who is Eligible?

This must be the first educational teen trip this student has taken. Congregational trips with parents DO NOT exclude the students from applying.

Student must be a current member and studying in the Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot High School Program.

Program must be at least four weeks in length. Approved programs currently are the following:

TIES (Teen Israel Summer Experience) Bureau of Jewish Education

NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth) Reform Movement Trip

BBYO (B'nai Brith Youth Organization)

Young Judea

All other programs must be approved prior to application.

What is the Application Process?

Students must submit a two to three page essay on the importance of Israel to the Jewish people, by February 10, 2017. The Committee will review the essays and choose finalists to call in for a formal interview.

In order to receive the Scholarship, the student must agree that within a week of his/her return home, he/she must submit a 750-1000 word essay on how Israel affected him/her. This essay will be published in the Ma'alot. Two scholarships will be awarded.

Scholarship Awarded Mid-February

Please contact Rabbi Steinberg for an application
(949) 857-2226 or email at rsteinberg@shmtemple.org

Submit essay to Rabbi Steinberg by February 10, 2017 at:
3652 Michelson Drive • Irvine, CA 92612

“Season of Mussar II” Advanced program

facilitate by Rabbi Lewis
at TVT Lower Campus
Sundays at 9:15 am

Group meets on the following
Sundays:

- February 5 & 26
- March 19
- April 2 & 23
- May 7

At the end of the 13-week A Season of Mussar program, participants can continue their Mussar learning and practice through the next level of program, A Season of Mussar II. This program also runs for 13 weeks and operates on the same principles as A Season of Mussar. This higher level course focuses on a different set of 6 middot.

The middot covered in A Season of Mussar II are:

- Week 1: Patience / Savlanut
- Week 3: Forgiveness / Slichah
- Week 5: Simplicity / Histapkut
- Week 7: Lovingkindness / Chesed
- Week 9: Strength / Gevurah
- Week 11: Faith / Emunah

At this higher level, more advanced Mussar practices are added to the program, including Cheshbon Ha'Nefesh (Accounting of the Soul), which involves both the daily recitation of a phrase and keeping a journal.

If you are ready to engage in the deeply personal work of Mussar, register to be part of this ongoing group. Contact the temple office at 949-857-2226 or register online at www.shmtemple.org/eventsrsvp/html.

Questions? Contact Rabbi Lewis at Llewis@shmtemple.org

CONGREGATION SHIR HA-MA'ALOT
AT AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
LED BY RABBI RICHARD STEINBERG

WE ARE
GOING TO
WASHINGTON,
D.C.
March 26–28, 2017

Rabbi Steinberg will be leading a
group of SHM members to the
2017 AIPAC Policy Conference

3.26.17 to 3.28.17

Please let us know if you are planning to attend

Contact Lindsey Morlan at lmorlan@shmtemple.org for more information



AIPAC
POLICY CONFERENCE
LEARN
LEAD
LOBBY

Torah Study with guest, Professor David Ruderman OC Community Scholar Program Saturday, January 21st at 8:30 am

(Mormon Center, 23 Lake Dr., Irvine)



Professor Ruderman is the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History at University of Pennsylvania. He was also the Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania for twenty years. Professor Ruderman was educated at the City College of New York, the Teacher's Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Columbia University.

He received his rabbinical degree from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1971, and his Ph.D. in Jewish History from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, in 1975. Prior to coming to Penn,

he held the Frederick P. Rose Chair of Jewish History at Yale University (1983-94) and the Louis L. Kaplan Chair of Jewish Historical Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park (1974-83), where he was instrumental in establishing both institutions' Judaic studies programs. At the University of Maryland he also won the Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Award in 1982-83 and, at the University of Pennsylvania, the Charles Ludwig Distinguished Teaching Award in 2008.



COMMUNITY
SCHOLAR
PROGRAM

Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program brings the best adult Jewish education programs in the world to Orange County and shares the joy of Judaism with unique hands-on Jewish family celebration experiences.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY,
MARCH 11, 2017
BOWERS MUSEUM
Santa Ana, Ca

Purim MASQUERADE BALL

gala fundraiser honoring:
Wendy Gary
Toni Rios
Jerry Silver
Lisa Monette



A Wonderful Luncheon for Orange County's Holocaust Survivors

Toni Rios and her team went to Laguna Woods last month for the first Holocaust Survivor luncheon since we have moved to temporary quarters. So many people say to Toni, "What you do is such a mitzvah" and she always says the same thing, "Planning and working on these luncheons is a gift to me and I'm sure it's the same for everyone who is involved!"

THANK YOU TO:

Rabbi Lewis for the very thoughtful words at the beginning—talking about Chanukah and light. . .our guests shared words about how they found "light" after the dark times—Hope, Adoption by Jewish family after losing parents, Love of Israel, Music, Rescue, Friendship, Love of Family, Kindness and Bravery of the people who kept Hidden Children, Coming to America - were words that were shared.

Cantor Shikler who lit up the room with his guitar and songs!

Cally Klein, Hazel Fenn and others from Jewish Federation and Family Service who took care of all the RSVPs and provided transportation for many of our guests.

Barbara King for going above and beyond (as she usually does) with handmade beanies and home made chocolates for all!!

Wendy Tenebaum for the beautiful Chanukah themed floral centerpieces. They were gorgeous.

And our wonderful volunteers: Joyce Cassel, Hope Snyder, Rebecca Snyder, Alyssa Snyder, Arlene Taslitz, Gladys Wilson, Leacrol Shinder, Shari Raskin, Sivan Krispin, Louise Beckerman, Teri Bassman, Marsha Bisheff, Steve Bisheff,

Sharon Weidberg, and Bano Pozin helped set up the tables, took care of serving the delicious lunch and cleaning up.





Full Service. Business. Lawyers.

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big or small . . .*



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Creditors' Rights

Business Transactions

Estate Planning

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No matter what legal issues you face, we can help. By assembling a strong group of talented attorneys with diverse backgrounds, Shulman Hodges & Bastian LLP has grown from our beginnings as a bankruptcy boutique, to becoming one of Southern California's premiere full-service business law firms. We have successfully represented a wide range of clients in the areas of business formation, bankruptcy, real estate, litigation, and estate planning. So if you are wondering where to turn, we have the talent and expertise to help lead you forward.

100 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 600, Irvine, CA 92618 Tel: 949.340.3400 Fax: 949.340.3000

TZEDAKAH DONATIONS

RABBI STEINBERG'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Karen & Alan Brutman, thank you for making Aiden's Bar Mitzvah so special

Ellen Winters Miller, thank you for the honor of being called to the bimah for Yom Kippur

Susan Miller, thank you from the bottom of my heart

CANTOR SHIKLER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Arlene Taslitz, mazal tov to Karen & Alan Brutman on Aiden's Bar Mitzvah

CULTURAL ARTS/FNL FUND

Karen & Alan Brutman, tzedakah donation

Nancy Wolf in memory of my dear parents Goldie & Jay Risman

Nancy Wolf in memory of my dear sister, Carol Oppenheimer

ELENA FRENKEL MEMORIAL SHOOL & YOUTH FUND

Charlotte Pinsky, warmest wishes for good health to Wendy Gary, sent with love

GENERAL FUND

Aviva Forster, congratulations to Lori Schwartz on being installed as co-chair of the JFFS Board

Abby Rozenberg, congratulations to Ken & Teri Bassman on the beautiful Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Lauren

Abby Rozenberg, congratulations to Karen & Alan Brutman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Aiden

JESSICA HERRON SHARING & CARING FUND

Dana Klein & Jay Herron in memory of our dear Rabbi King

CARING & SHARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Elaine & Harvey Fliesher

Beth & Aaron Sher

Annette & David Weil

Loretta Sarrafzadeh

Robert & Teresa Lindsay

Matthew & Jane Brenner

Rebecca Hussain

Nancy Lobel

Connie O'Connor

Bob & Nancy Wolf

Joe Kaplan

Lisa Monette

Jayne & Michael Ruane

Steve & Marsha Bisheff

Christine Friend

Loralee Sheridan

Ken Perlman

Richard Sternberg

LIRARY FUND

The Maureen Thompson Family in memory of Maureen's mother, Ethel Sandler

The Larry Thompson Family in memory of Larry's father, Deo Nels Thompson

YAHRZEIT FUND

David & Jill Sheer in memory of

Sylvia Kootner

Jay Rindenau in memory of Chaya Rindenau

Alla Berman in memory of Zinaida Moshkovich

Bunnie Mauldin in memory of Fannie Blatt

Jayne Ruane in memory of Mark Frisman

Dennis Fischel in memory of Jack Fischel

Sharon Blindell in memory of Rosalind Selcer

Audrey Greenberg in memory of Julius Berest

Bill Platka in memory of William Platka, Jr.

Sondra Berman in memory of Nellie & Morris Schneider

Marv Selcer in memory of Rosalind Selcer
Gladys Wilson in memory of Samuel Wilson

CONGREGATION SHIR HA-MA'ALOT

SAVE THE DATE

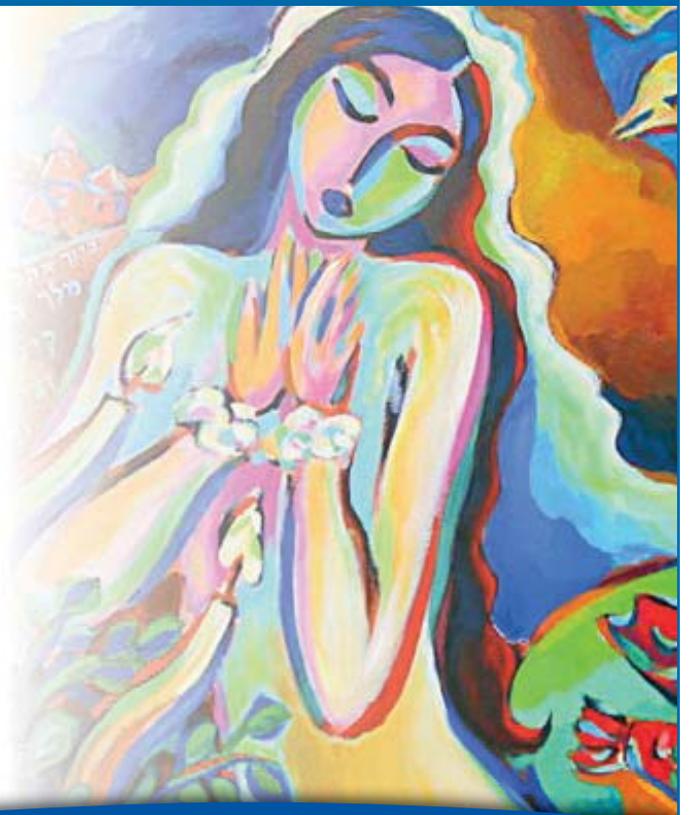
6th Annual Women's Seder

Sunday, April 2, 2017
4:00 in the afternoon

Make new memories while we recall the past during our catered seder. Consider bringing a guest—a Jewish woman or a woman of another faith—to join you.

The programming is geared toward ages 5 and above.

RSVP by March 24th to the Temple at 949-857-2226
or respond online at www.shmtemple.org





SHM CONGREGATION
SHIR HA-MA'ALOT
 3652 Michelson Drive • Irvine, CA 92612
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DATED MATERIAL—
Please Deliver Before January 1, 2017

New Location for SHM Clergy & Staff

We are settled into our temporary offices in Newport Beach. This is only our physical location, all mail still gets sent to the Michelson address.

**4000 MacArthur Blvd.
 East Building, 6th Floor
 Newport Beach, CA 92660**

You can enter the complex from either MacArthur or Jamboree. We recommend Jamboree (turn onto Koll) as there are 20 free parking spaces in front of the building. The phone number is still 949-857-2226

Other Donation Opportunities

- Memorial Board \$360 per name
- Tree of Life \$180 per name
- Prayer book Fund \$35 per book

Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot has many Sanctuary and Facility Giving and Naming Opportunities. Please contact the Temple office for further information.

Tzedakah Contributions

Please enclose contribution and mail with this form to the Temple office.
 (Minimum \$10.00 per name or occasion)

Donation Given by:

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip: _____

Acknowledgment sent to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip: _____

Amount of Donation \$ _____ Check Credit Card on file

Visa/MC _____ Exp. _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Special Occasion _____

Other _____

Please apply my contribution to the following special fund(s):

- Alex Zeleznick Children's Fund
- Campership Fund
- Cantor Shikler's Disc. Fund
- Cultural Arts/Friday Night Live! Fund
- Elana Frenkel Memorial School & Youth Fund
- Florence Ruth King Chesed Fund
- General Fund
- Jessica Herron Adopt-a-Family Fund
- Library Fund
- Oneg Shabbat Fund
- Prayer Book Fund
- Rabbi Lewis' Disc. Fund
- Rabbi Steinberg's Disc. Fund
- Ritual (Jerry Jacobs) Fund
- Special Events Fund (Aaron & Brock Silverstein)
- Todd Evan Ross School Fund
- Yahrzeit Fund
- Youth Group Fund